

liam L. Van Wagoner, November 9, 1913; F. S. McQuarrie, September 12, 1920; Frederick Remund, September 4, 1921; Clark Bronson, May 5, 1923; Charles E. Buhler, December 12, 1926; Everice Floyd Bonner, January 7, 1934; Keith Coleman, December 15, 1935; Clarence H. Probst, February 16, 1936; Emery Buhler, March 12, 1944; Clyde Alder, June 23, 1946; Grant Remund, April 27, 1947; LeRoy Kohler, 1950; Emer Wilson, January 7, 1956; Irvin O. Bowden.

In the Midway Second Ward the Sunday School was organized on November 15, 1903 with David S. Van Wagoner as superintendent and George A. Huntington and John U. Probst, assistants, Mary Jane Abplanalp secretary and Clara Kohler, assistant secretary. The first organization took place on February 12, 1905 when Nephi Huber was sustained as superintendent. Other superintendents have been William Abplanalp, October 10, 1909; Orson P. Mathews, January 7, 1912; R. V. Huffaker, 1921; John N. Carroll, 1925; Henry Zenger, December 1, 1935; Ray Gertsch, July 28, 1940; Joseph E. Probst, December 2, 1945; Wayne Probst, October 19, 1952; Reed Gertsch, October, 1955; Kenneth Kohler, March 16, 1958.

Missionary activity has been a vital part of religious life in the Midway Wards. During a hundred years of ward organization some 150 missionaries have been called to serve full time missions, representing more than 300 years of voluntary service.

With a century of religious devotion as a foundation, members of the Midway Wards now look forward to increased activity and organization in the future as they continue to make the Golden Rule their mainstay of living.

## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

### *In the Sweat of Thy Face...*

Industriousness has been a vital part of the community spirit in Midway since the area was first settled. Through the years the people have worked together to build their community and to develop the trades and industries needed to sustain life.

The early settlers pooled their individual skills to build homes and make roads, to erect a fort for protection and to raise crops to keep them through long, hard winters. Later, as life became established, there were many community service industries that developed, such as grist mills, blacksmith shops, sawmills, creameries and others.

As treasures in the earth were discovered in the Midway area, a booming mining industry sprang up and flourished for some time. The advent of electricity gave rise to a new industry of electrical power generation, which in turn saw the growth of dam building on Provo River and other streams.

Commerce in Midway has included business houses such as grocery stores, meat markets, livery stables, department stores and hotels and boarding houses. Saloons and pool halls have also existed. Following are accounts of the various industries and trades.

#### CARPENTERS

Men with skill to build with wood and nails and fashion furniture were badly needed in the early days of any community, and Midway was no exception. Fortunately, Midway had many who were skilled in the building trades, and they added much to the community.

Many of the first settlers that came into Midway were craftsmen who had been trained in carpentry in Europe or in the east. Many of them had helped erect the Nauvoo Temple and then had moved west with the Church under Brigham Young.

Homes, schools, churches and furniture were built by the hands of these craftsmen. Their skills also extended to tiny pieces of furniture for their little daughters at Christmas time, and to coffins in times of bereavement.

Such craftsmen as Moroni Blood worked on many coffins of native lumber, building them with patience and love. With his work-hardened hands Mr. Blood tacked lace around the edges of the box to lessen the harshness of death.

Included among Midway's carpenters are such men as Jeremiah

Robey Sr., Jeremiah Robey, Jr., John Van Wagoner Sr., Peter Galli, Johannes Sonderegger, Fred Haueter, Peter Shirts, and Fred Kohler.

#### MASONS

Another aspect of building that flourished in Midway was that of masonry. Many men brought this skill with them when they came to the valley, while others learned it as they grew in Wasatch Valley.

Stone cutting and masonry were tedious jobs, done in the early days with hand tools only. One stone cutter is said to have worked ten weeks with hammers and chisels on a stone, only to have it crack and prove worthless for the job for which it was intended. Many men worked more than 10 hours a day in hard stone to earn three dollars' pay per day.

The Midway area had many quarries and rock fields, as well as a flourishing brick making industry. Much of the rock native to Midway was "pot rock" or limestone formed in warm springs of the area.

The old Co-op Store, church buildings, the school house, the Town Hall both the old and new and Thomas Hair's store are some products of the stone masons. Rocks in these buildings were chipped by hand to the proper size.

In the 1930's, when the present Town Hall was constructed, work had advanced to rock sawing. Stones were gathered from surrounding fields and brought to the masons. Work was measured in terms of "perch." Perch for ordinary labor was sixteen cubic feet of rock. It was 21 cubic feet for government measure. Stone from the fields of Joseph Galli, Joseph Shelton and John Zweifel went into the Town Hall, while the First Ward Chapel was constructed of rock obtained from John U. Buehler's pasture.

Masons of note through the years have included John Watkins, Joseph Watkins, Frederick Haueter Jr., Fred O. Haueter, Harry Bircumshaw, John Zweifel, John and Henry Van Wagoner, Johannes Sonderegger, Simon Huber, John Glassinger, George Watkins and Thomas Bonner.

#### BRICK MAKING

In the early years of Midway there were two yards for manufacturing brick. One yard and kiln was located northwest of the city and was operated by John Van Wagoner. The other location was on the southwest side of the city, just east of the cemetery. This was operated by Henry Van Wagoner and David Provost. The first brick in the valley was made by John Watkins. Another early brick-maker was William Van Wagoner.

Brick-making flourished in Midway because there were several large hills of clay available in the area.

Production techniques, though somewhat crude, produced good brick. The usual procedure began by digging a hole the size of a very

large room and filling this hole with water and clay. This mixture was allowed to soak overnight. Next morning, the mixture was transferred to a large wooden box which contained an apparatus referred to as a "dolly." The dolly actually was large mixing blades. The mixing device was powered by horses that plodded around the large box in a manner similar to old-time threshing of grain.

As the mud was being mixed, workmen would prepare wooden molds that were dipped in water and then in red sand. When the mud mixture was at the right consistency, it was taken from the mixing box, put into the wooden molds and leveled. These raw brick were then stacked with air space between each brick. Among the piles of brick, fire boxes or trenches were built, running about two feet apart. Fires were built in these trenches and kept burning continuously for three days and nights, or until the bricks were dry.

Indicative of the hard work involved in making brick is this note from the books of Henry Van Wagoner. Mr. Van Wagoner kept the time of his employees in a note book, and wrote after the name of one man: "One very, very hard days work for Henry Van Wagoner for only two dollars."

The Midway brick yards operated for many years, furnishing materials for such buildings as Wasatch High School which was built in 1912; homes such as the Nelson's by the railroad tracks, Bonner's, James Ritchie's in Charleston, Streets, George Johnson's and Coleman's. The Henry T. Coleman home built by John Watkins is said to be the first brick house built in the valley.

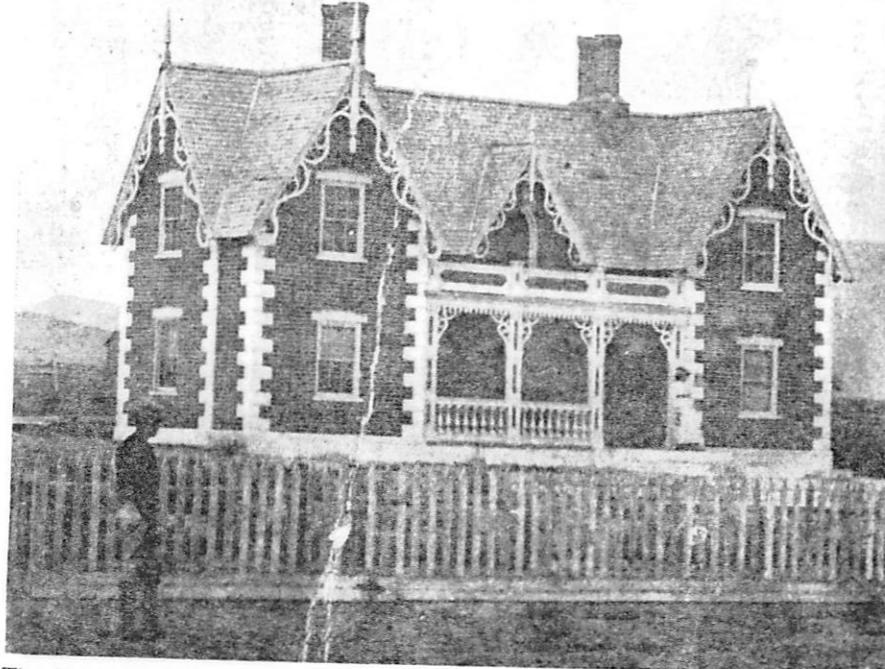
Some of the more prominent brick makers through the years have been David Provost, Theophilus Epperson, Amos and Lawrence Epperson, Louis Coleman and E. Luke Provost.

#### BLACKSMITHS

Shoes for horses and oxen, wagon and buggy tires, sharpened and tempered, plow shares and drills and picks were just a few of the essentials needed by early settlers of Midway. For these necessities they looked to the blacksmiths of the community.

Fires of the huge forges would often glow late into the night and the anvils would ring as the blacksmiths worked to keep the farmers ready for another day's work. Services were usually paid for in produce, exchanged labor or whatever means of exchange was most readily available.

Those who were most prominent in the trade in Midway included Henry Alexander, Joseph Neilsen, John Wright, Henry T. Coleman, Robert Krebs, Samuel (Sam) Hair, Robert Ross, Ernest White, J. R. Springer and William Gibson. Mr. Gibson operated the last blacksmith shop in the community.



The first brick home in Wasatch County as it was built by Bishop John Watkins in 1868. Hand pressed brick were used, with white sand stone corners. Woodwork on the outside was by Moroni Blood, a Swiss immigrant. Timber and lumber used throughout the home was milled and planed by Henry Coleman Sr. John Watkins, who built the home, had come to Midway from England where he was a noted architect.

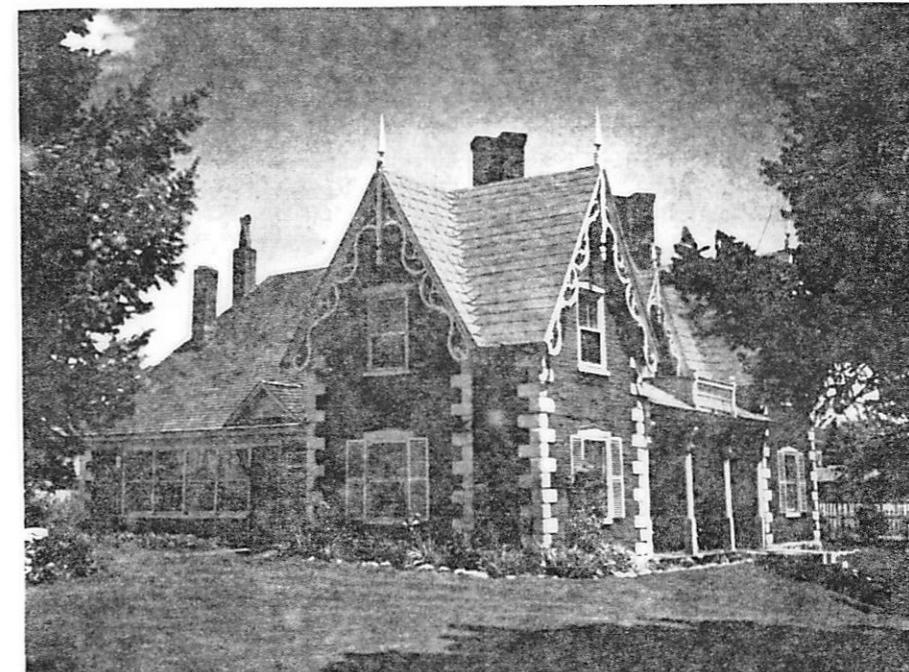
#### GRIST MILLS

Milling was one of the first industries in the Midway area, having its beginning in 1861 when John H. Van Wagoner built the first mill on the old Wood's Farm, known as the Fred Price home site.

The enterprising Mr. Van Wagoner had only been in Midway for about a year when he sensed the need of the people for a mill. He brought the first mill stone to the town by ox team and shaped the stone with hammer and chisel.

Sidney Epperson records in his journal the delight of the people with Mr. Van Wagoner's mill. After stating that the people could now have flour ground, and grain prepared for their cattle, Mr. Epperson wrote "This mill was indeed a blessing for the settlers."

In recent years the stone from this first mill has been placed atop a monument on the Post Office corner by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.



The home as it has been preserved today by the family of Bishop Henry T. Coleman who purchased the property in 1904. The traditional English landscaping and the flavor of the original architecture make it one of the scenic attractions in the entire valley.

Early millers of Midway included George Bonner, James Ross, a Mr. Saxe, Brigham Mulliner, Hyrum Horner Dennis, Mark Jeffs and Mr. John Van Wagoner.

The major mill in Midway had its beginnings in 1893 when Mark Jeffs built a large, four-story grist mill on the east side of Midway near the Provo River. This mill was capable of producing 50 barrels of flour every 24 hours. Water from Provo River powered the mill, which was the first roller mill in the county. An additional source of water was the Birkumshaw Springs, about a mile and a half above the mill. Water was stored in a large pond overnight and then used as desired during the day.

Because Mr. Jeffs hired transient millers to operate his mill, the venture failed to succeed and was closed in 1900.

However, Nels Joseph Johnson, a young miller, and native of Wasatch County, purchased the mill in 1903 and started operating it again. Mr. Johnson had been working for Abram Hatch in the Heber Flour Mills, but moved his wife and family to Midway as soon as he purchased the mill. He is reported to have paid Mr. Jeffs \$10,000 for the facility.

Through the years the mill has been successfully managed by Mr. Johnson and his sons. During World War I it ran at full capacity producing flour for the government. Most of this production was shipped to Houston, Texas. Flour was also shipped to San Francisco during the tragic earthquake of 1906.

Improvements made at the mill during the years included cleaning machines for the wheat, chopping facilities and flour bleaching equipment. Hundreds of tons of wheat were also stored in the mill.

For many years the mill was operated under the name of Peoples Roller Mills, and then later the Johnson Milling Company. When Mr. Johnson died in 1950, his son, Ralph J. Johnson took over the management. The mill is now the property of the Lifferth Manufacturing Co. It is under the management of Henry Lifferth. The company makes small metal tools.

#### SAWMILLS

Sawmills, like topsy, grew quickly in the early days of Midway. The need for lumber was urgent and the settlers were grateful for any amount that could be produced.

Because of the urgency for lumber, and the rapidity with which mills were built, it is difficult to know which was the "first" sawmill in Midway. For this reason, this account lists no one owner as "first."

An early operator was Father Mills of Provo. Sidney Epperson wrote in his journal about Father Mills as follows: "Mr. Huber states that Father Mills wheeled tools in a wheel barrow from Provo and located a sawmill here in the upper settlement on Snake Creek. At night he locked himself in a box as protection from bears and snakes." Peter Shirts (Shurtz) had a mill on Snake Creek which contained an old style "up and down saw." He operated the mill only a few years and then sold it in 1864 to Henry Coleman Sr., who ran the mill for some time. Mr. Coleman employed John H. Van Wagoner as an assistant.

John Watkins also operated a sawmill, but located it on Deer Creek. Most of these mills were water-powered, though some utilized steam power in later years.

Most of the logs for the sawmills were hauled by horses or ox teams. Most loggers preferred oxen since they were slow, steady and not easily excited.

Moroni Blood was another sawmill operator. He was able to produce smooth lumber with a planer that he made himself. Other owners and operators included Ephraim Hanks, David Van Wagoner, William Howard, Henry Alexander, John Huber and Jacob Buchler.

#### LIME KILNS

Another vital element of building was lime, and Midway had several kilns where lime was produced.

Early producers of lime selected suitable mounds or hills where they could dig a kiln into the hill. They then sealed off the kiln to create a virtual oven and burned the lime rock for several days to take away the impurities and form a sticky lime powder.

The first kiln probably was the Snake Den kiln, owned by William Van Wagoner Sr. He used a mound or hill that was about the same size and shape as the one at the Homestead. Mr. Van Wagoner produced lime that was tested as 98 per cent pure, and shipped it to all parts of the country.

In addition to its use as a building material, lime was also used as a whitening agent in sugar. Many sugar factories in Utah purchased lime produced in the Midway area.

Lime Canyon kiln was probably built next, but the rock was too hard and failed to burn properly, so the kiln failed. Another kiln was built west and south of the Fox Den, southeast of Midway. The rock here had no weight and so the lime would not sell, causing the failure of this kiln in a short time.

In 1905 another lime kiln was erected on the Huber farm by Fred Barber, but he failed to build his kiln far enough into the hill, so that the outside of the structure kept breaking away, allowing the heat to escape.

The second successful kiln was built on Memorial Hill and lasted many years. It was first owned by John Van Wagoner and his brother, William. Fred Haueter Sr. tended the fires.

Three days and nights of steady burning were required to finish a kiln of lime. White pine wood was used to keep the fires going. Some tried to use coal, but this proved unsatisfactory, since the heat from the coal stayed too close to the bed of coals and did not penetrate through the lime rock.

Mr. Haueter, who tended the fires, would stay awake during an entire burning job, sawing the cord wood as it was needed. The fires had to be kept at an even, steady heat to produce the proper sticking in the lime.

Fred O. Haueter, followed in his father's footsteps at the lime kiln, and later bought the business from the Van Wagoner brothers. Young Mr. Haueter continued to use his father's method of burning, and sawed the wood as he would burn a kiln. His business was very successful and he continued for many years.

Lime was sold by the bushel, and usually could be purchased for about 15 to 20 cents per bushel. Some 150 pounds of unburned lime rock were required to produce 50 to 60 pounds of finished lime.

John Peterson and Royal Huffaker assisted Mr. Haueter at times in the kiln. The last lime taken from this kiln was used in building the

Midway Town Hall. The lime used was burned by Fred O. Haueter in 1939-41. Others to work at the trade were Thomas Bonner, Henry T. Coleman and Nephi Huber.

#### MARBLE QUARRY

Marble of high quality was discovered high in the hills at the head of Snake Creek Canyon by Sidney Epperson shortly after Midway was established. From this quarry huge blocks of marble were brought down the rugged, twisting canyon on two-wheeled carts drawn by oxen. The slabs were taken to the Cornelius Springer homestead where they were fashioned into usable blocks. An early use of the marble was for headstones, some of which can still be seen in the Midway Cemetery.

One of the early owners of this quarry was Fredrick Buehler. Later, Andrew Gebhardt of Salt Lake City bought the quarry for \$1,000. He changed the name to the Wasatch Marble Company of Utah and established the company headquarters in Salt Lake City. The quarry continued successfully through the 1880's.

#### ICE STORAGE

Refrigeration in Midway's early years was accomplished through cutting and storing of ice in chilly winter months and utilizing it in the hot days of summer.

As sub-zero winter weather formed thick layers of ice on lakes and ponds, crews would take large saws and cut the ice into chunks that could be stored. Usually the ice was cut into blocks weighing between 100 and 125 pounds. The blocks were carried by sleighs to storage houses where they were stacked and covered by thick layers of sawdust.

Persons with lakes or ponds on their property would usually sell the ice for 15 cents a ton if the buyer would cut it, or as much as 50 cents a ton if it was pre-cut.

Two-man, cross-cut timber saws were used to cut the ice, with the handle on one end of the saw removed. Lines for sawing were laid out on the ice with a straight board. Ice tongs were used to remove the chunks of ice. The work was slippery and cold, and many a man fell into the icy cold water and had to be dried out before he could resume working. Teams of horses were known to break through the ice also, creating great excitement and often suffering before the animals could be hauled out of their freezing predicaments.

As summer time came, the saw-dust would be scraped or washed from the ice to provide refrigeration. If properly stored, the ice would usually last through most of the summer.

Ice entrepreneurs included Marks Jeffs and Nels Johnson who sold from the mill pond. The Rasband brothers had a pond west of the Provo River bridge between Midway and Heber. Retail outlets for ice included Coleman's Store, William Watkins and William L. Van Wagner's stores.

Some of the early ice cutters included George T. Watkins, John Luke, Fred Haueter, Ulrich Kuhni, Albert Lockner, Joseph Galli and Joseph Abegglen.

#### MINING

Midway had still not been formed from the two Snake Creek communities when the first high grade ore was discovered in 1864 in the Park City mining district. While the discoveries were not in the Midway area, their impact was soon to be felt in the new community. Other outcroppings of good grade ore were discovered in American Fork Canyon in 1875. Midway lay almost in the middle of these two important discoveries and the areas of Snake Creek, Pine Creek and Dutch Canyon soon were overrun with prospectors. Many claims were staked out in this area, with Sidney H. Epperson, Jeremiah Robey and Nathan Springer leading much of the prospecting work.

Following the initial discoveries in the Park City area the Ontario, Daily Judge, Daily West, American Flag, New Quincy, Little Bell, New York, Wabash, California, Silver King, Park Utah, Spirro Tunnel, New Park and the Park City mines were organized. Many smaller mines were discovered, but soon were consolidated with the larger companies.

Park City began to grow rapidly with these discoveries, and for more than half a century the mining work supported two railroads, the Denver and Rio Grande and the Union Pacific. The Park City mining district is about eight miles north of Midway, and for more than 75 years has served as the major market center for the farmers of Midway. The mines also furnished employment for many men from Midway who chose mining as their pursuit for wealth and happiness. Many prospered, some failed and several lost their lives or were maimed in a sincere effort to succeed.

In American Fork Canyon the first discoveries were made around 1875 and by 1888 the Miller Hill, the Dutchman and the Pacific mines were the three major producers. These mines operated for many years, but the ore bodies were relatively small and soon were depleted. However, for a few years these mines supported the state's first narrow gauge railroad.

These American Fork Canyon mines also served as a market for eggs, butter, cheese and vegetables for Midway farmers. Reports indicate that some of the farmers carried as much as 75 pounds of produce on their backs, following a rough trail over the mountains west of Midway into the canyon to supply the needs of the miners.

In the Midway area itself a mining district was organized, known as the Blue Ledge mining district. Two of the earliest mines were the Flagg Staff and Lucky Bill, neither of which produced much ore. Other early properties near Midway included the Southern Tier group and the St. Louis-Vasser claims. The Southern Tier group was owned by Eugene Levigneur and a Mr. St. Joer, both Frenchmen. From the Southern Tier

came some \$90,000 worth of high grade ore. This mine was one of Midway's largest producers. Henry T. Coleman of Midway directed the work in these mines, and some who were employed included John Morton, Jerry Springer, Nate Springer, George Schear, John A. Sulser, Carson Smith, David J. Wilson, Nymphus Watkins, Jacob Kummer, Frank Greenwell, Charles Alexander, Adam Empey, Brigham Hamilton and William John Wilson.

The St. Louis-Vasser claims were located by Judge A. C. Hatch, Henry T. Coleman and Samuel Hair, along with the West St. Louis and Merle V. groups of mines. About 1900 they sold their interests to a group of mining men from Salt Lake City, including Robert Walker and Colonel Shaunessy. Under new management the mines employed several Midway men and began working on the St. Louis-Vassar Incline Shaft. Charles Buhler had charge of the work, but the company ran out of money and the property was turned back to the locators.

Another large operation that hired many local men included the Steam Boat Tunnel, later known as Mountain Lake Tunnel. Charles Buhler was foreman of the Steam Boat Tunnel and William Witt of the Mountain Lake Tunnel. Many who worked in these mines included Henry T. Coleman, John Buehler, Nathaniel Baldwin, Ernest Kohler, Charles Bigler, William Bigler, Samuel Ritchie, Fred Sonderegger, John A. Sulser and Hyrum Shelton, and two women who were cooks, Mrs. Mary Bigler Kohler and Mrs. Bertha Sonderegger Wilson.

Others who worked at the Mountain Lake, or Jesse Knight operation, were Elijah Watkins, Joseph Hair, George Bonner, Charles Bonner, George Schear, Joseph Galli, Charles Mitchell. Joseph Hair was killed and Elijah Watkins blinded in an explosion in this mine.

Later the Daily Judge Mining Company and the Knight Investment Company ran the Snake Creek Tunnel as a joint venture in 1910. Many who found employment here included Ernest Dayton, (Jay) John Abplanalp, Frank Abplanalp, Michael Abplanalp, Alonzo Abplanalp, John Burt, Sam Ritchie, Fred Sonderegger, Thomas Kummer, Henry S. Coleman, Alvah Ross, Morris Watkins, John H. Buehler, George Bonner, Charlie Bonner, William Bigler, Charles Bigler, Charles Mitchell, Charles Whistler, Eli Korah, Joseph Schoney, Earl Hardy, Emil Nelson, William Hancock, and cooks, Mrs. Alice Mohlman and Mrs. Ella O'Neil Hancock Whistler.

A shaft known as the J. I. C. was sunk on Bonanza Flat and operated for a short time. Jerry Springer and Alonzo Alder were some who worked on this shaft. "The Montreal" was also operated in the early 1900's, and provided work for the Alder brothers, Alfred, William and James, as well as Peter Abplanalp. The "Lone Hill" was operated by Ira Clark, Nate Springer, Alfred Alder, Jacob Kummer, Alonzo Alder and Peter Abplanalp.

The "John the Revelator" mine was first opened by Henry T. Cole-

man for the Southern Tier Mining Company, but later discontinued. It was worked at different times by lessors who included Sam Hair, Monroe Hair, Nephi Huber, Johnny Shelton, Dale Coleman, Martin Huber and Robert Gorlinski.

Other claims in the Midway area that were worked at one time or another included The Big Four, Balsam Grove, Heber Cities, Lone Pine, Pine Cone, Boulder Basin, Blue Bird, Silver Island Lake and Rudie.

William (Billie) Bogan who had considerable interests in the Park City area, which he later sold, also located some claims in the Snake Creek area. He worked these for many years until he became too old. Fred Hanney worked for many years for Mr. Bogan, as did John A. Sulser.

Another "old timer" who spent most of his life at claims in the White Pines was Henry Tattersall. He wore a long, white flowing beard, and was always seen without a hat coming from his diggings or from the springs with pails of water.

Jack McCarthy, Levi Hancock and others worked claims in Dutch Canyon, while "Brig" Hamilton, James (Jim) Hamilton and William John Wilson worked Blue Bird. A Mr. Kilkennie claimed Horse Shoe Bend, and Nate C. Springer, Alfred Alder and Cornelius Springer worked their claim, Silent Shade. William Hacket and Barney Kennah had claims near the divide at Brighton and Nephi Huber and George Wilson worked the Rudie claim.

At one time Ephraim Mohlman and George Watkins leased the Mountain Lake mine and shipped a few tons of ore. Orvil Scott, Wilford Van Wagonen, Sidney Epperson and William (Billie) Johnston also had claims in Snake Creek and Dutch Canyon. Mr. Johnston first claimed the area where the New Park Mine now is located. He held the claims for many years, though many advised him to give them up. His judgment and faith were later vindicated when the New Park was brought in on his claims.

Benjamin (Bennie) Clark also worked claims in Sid's Canyon and Lime Canyon, but the operation was limited.

Mining has aided Midway's economy in many ways during the years. Many have succeeded in working claims while others sold produce or other goods to those who came to work in the mines. LeRoy Buehler, William Larsen, William Haueter, Joseph Bergener, Charles Buehler, Joseph Buehler and Carl Hanney made mining their career and achieved in their chosen fields.

Perhaps the two most successful Midway men in mining outside the area were John H. Buehler and Henry S. Coleman. Both got their starts in Midway mines and later rose to prominent positions in Utah and Nevada mining firms.

### MEAT HAULING AND PEDDLING

Related to the mining industry was the business of supplying food and vegetables to the miners. Crops were raised in abundance, and the mining communities promised a source of cash to the Midway farmers. Some who began regular peddling routes included William Coleman Sr., Emil Kohler, Ulrich Probst, Austin Kelly, John Carroll, August Kohler, Ernest Kohler, Albert Kohler, Francis Probst and Reed Kohler. At first the trips were made in horse-drawn buggies or sleighs in the winter time and then later in trucks. The trips with horses, particularly in winter blizzards were memorable feats of endurance. This type of business ended around the time of World War I when laws were passed requiring refrigeration of meats and slaughtering in government inspected plants.

### STORES

Little is known about stores operated in the very early settlements of Midway. Henry and Mary Jane Coleman had a store in connection with their saw mill in the Upper Settlement before the Fort was built.

Richard Sherlock operated a store in the Fort on the square. James Gunn and George Snyder had small stores in the first years of the town.

James B. Wilson ran a store in one room of his home. The business was taken care of by Mrs. Wilson, leaving time for Mr. Wilson to go for supplies and take care of his farm. It was hard to keep supplies coming in all of the stores of this period. The merchants traded their store goods for eggs, butter, grain, hay and other produce. Not much money was exchanged. The children of these earlier days remember trading eggs and squirrel tails at Wilson's store for hard rock candy they loved.

Common to all the early merchants were the hardships borne to stock their stores to satisfy the needs of the people. All stocks were brought in by team. The roads were often difficult to travel, and wholesale stocks were limited.

The old-Co-op store stood where the present Rose Garden grows. It was run by Bishop David Van Wagoner for the stockholders. Later he purchased the store. It was a typical general store of the time. The Post Office was in the same building. From an advertisement we learn that the store was flourishing in 1891. It was a prosperous store and its barns and sheds were filled with hay, grain, and farm produce to be used as medium of exchange. Many of the older people of the town gathered here to talk over their day's work, their crops, politics, and the weather. After Bishop Van Wagoner retired from the operation of the store, his son, David L. Van Wagoner, took charge of it. Later his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. David Murdock operated it. Mr. Mark Jeffs of Heber City purchased the store and for a number of years it was managed by Mr. Jeff's daughter, Emma, and her husband, John A. Fortie. Leah Kohler clerked in the Co-op for years.

Mr. and Mrs. David Murdock ran a store later in their home, now owned by David E. Provost.

Gottfried Buhler operated a store in his home, and then built a store near his house. Mary Jane Abplanalp clerked for Mr. Buhler. Later he built a new store by the German Hall. This store was a very well-stocked establishment. Mr. Buhler's daughter, Adeline (Ardell), helped her father. Finally the store closed and was converted into a creamery.

Another store which had a long life was one operated by Gottlieb Probst in his home. He carried candy and small items of merchandise. Mr. Probst was crippled and conducted his business from a chair. It was here that for many years the young people would gather in the evening to visit and sing. Mr. Probst loved the youth of the community.

One of the oldest continuously operated stores in the town was the Bonner Mercantile Store. George Bonner, Sr., aided by his sons, George and William Bonner, began this business in his home. It was a small enterprise at first, and then as business grew and the sons took it over, it justified a large new building where the store presently stands. This was built in 1879. George bought his brother's share. He proved to be a highly esteemed merchant and his business prospered. His daughters, Phoebe and Margaret, clerked for him. Later his youngest daughter, June, became the bookkeeper. After Mr. Bonner's death, his daughter, Margaret, and her husband, Albert Stewart, purchased the business. June remained as bookkeeper. Mrs. Stewart did all the buying. Mr. Stewart brought in the merchandise and then delivered the purchases to far-away customers. He made his deliveries to the mines in the area, both winter and summer. The store was a general country store and supplied practically all the needs of the community. In 1948 Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stewart retired from business and sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. Leland Ivers. Mrs. Ivers is the daughter of Thomas Bonner, a brother of George Bonner. So the store has really never left the Bonner family. It was renamed "Iver's Mercantile," has been remodeled and modernized, and is today a prosperous, up-to-date general store.

Mr. and Mrs. William Watkins operated a small store near their home in connection with the Post Office. Mr. Watkins also put up ice for sale. His store housed, for several years, the only telephone in town and only the most important messages were telephoned in.

For some time in the history of the town, the sweet tooth of the community was satisfied by the ice cream and candy sold by William Watkins and Thomas Hair.

Mr. Hair was the town barber for years. He established his shop and a confectionery in the pot-rock building adjacent to the big rock building on Main Street that served as the dance and theatre auditorium. Both buildings were erected by George Bonner and they still stand. The large building is now the Wasatch Stake Bishops' Storehouse.

Bishop Henry T. Coleman and Simon Epperson opened a store in

1910 called "The Midway Drug Store." A confectionery was installed. Mr. Coleman soon bought the shares of Mr. Epperson. Dancing every week, and sometimes twice a week in the amusement hall offered splendid patronage for both Mr. Hair and Mr. Coleman. Young and old alike enjoyed these stores, couples gathered at small tables with curved wire legs and ate their home-made ice cream in style. Mr. Hair and Bishop Coleman watched over the young people with kindly eyes, and a word of advice was often given, and often asked for, regarding romance, business, and behavior. In April, 1917, Guy Coleman bought his father's business. In 1922 Guy's brother, Henry S., bought the business and ran it for a year. Guy Coleman then repurchased the store from Henry. Today the store has been greatly enlarged and completely modernized. Guy's son, Pete, is a partner in the business, which is known as Coleman's Store. It is a flourishing grocery store and up-to-date market.

Adjoining the Coleman store, a grocery store and meat market was opened years ago and was owned and managed by brothers, William L. and Bishop John Van Wagoner. Their sisters, Nancy and Luella Van Wagoner clerked in the store. Later the store was bought by a group of townspeople, with Bishop Jacob Probst in charge. Mr. Parley Van Wagoner was manager for a time. Still later, Dean and Albert Van Wagoner, brothers of the original owners, started another grocery store and meat market. They operated for several years. Valorous Provost operated a market there for awhile. This part of the building is now included in the Coleman Store.

Another business that was operated years ago was a small store owned by Mrs. George (Lettie) Bronson. Her store was near her home which still stands across from the Second Ward meeting house. Mrs. Bronson was a Van Wagoner.

At one time Mr. Wilford Van Wagoner and his son, Walter, operated a store in the old Co-op building. They had a dry-goods store and sold men's clothing, rubber boots, coats, heavy pants and shirts. The store prospered until the Snake Creek Tunnel project closed and then the Van Wagoners went out of business. During this time Mr. and Mrs. David Murdock ran their little candy and grocery store adjacent to the Co-op. After the clothing store closed, Walter Van Wagoner ran a pool hall in the Co-op building.

Brothers William and James Alder opened the first butcher shop in Midway. The building stood in the northeast corner of the old Alder lot.

Mr. Reed Kohler ran a grocery store and meat market for a number of years in a building near his home.

Almost forgotten in Midway is an old photograph gallery. It stood on the Bishop John Watkins lot, now the Henry T. Coleman property. It was just east of the Big Pine Tree. It was operated by Mary Ann (Polly) Watkins, daughter of Bishop Watkins, now Mrs. William

Schear of Ogden. Later, Mrs. Benjamin (Eliza) Hair did photographic work in her home.

Women of the earlier days made their purchases of millinery, gloves, collars and other feminine apparel from Mrs. Mary Jane Coleman McCarrell. She made hats, trimmed them with flowers, velvet, ribbon, lace, and feathers. The women of Midway were really fashion conscious. Matilda Gerber Jacobs also was a fine milliner at that time. Later, Myrtle Abplanalp ran a successful millinery business.

Among the accomplished dressmakers of earlier days were Mary Jane Coleman McCarrell, Matilda Gerber Jacobs, Jane Alder Watkins, Elinor Blood Watkins, Maggie J. Wilson, and Elizabeth Coleman Epper-son.

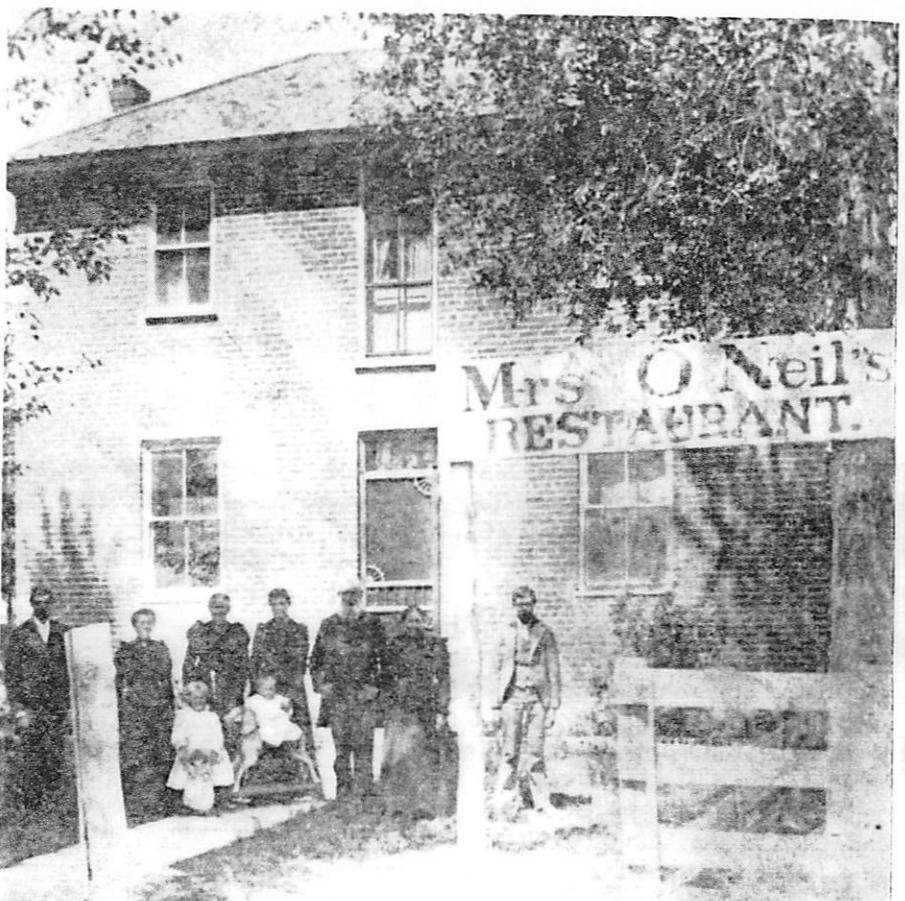
Midway is a small town, but is proud of the following successful business enterprises today: Ivers Mercantile, owned and operated by Leland and Glenna Ivers; Coleman's Store, owned and operated by Guy E. and Pete Coleman; The Alpine, a cafe, service station, and pool hall, owned and operated by the Bronson brothers, Lazelle, Harvey, and Keith Bronson who also run a successful coal business; Bill's Service Station, owned by Guy E. Coleman and operated by Bill Mair; Al's Service Sta-tion, owned and operated by Alvin Zufelt; Farm Implements and Appli-ance, owned and operated by Albert Kohler; Rothe Lumber Company, owned and operated by Kurt Rothe; "The Timp Freeze," a drive-in, owned and operated by George Remund and son; Watch and clock repair shop, owned and operated by Orson Burgi; Plumbing business, by Wil-burn Huffaker; Ceramic creations, by LaVon Hair; Machinery and car repair shop, by Theo Daybell; Alma Durtschi, cement finishing; Earl and Ray Kohler, building contractors; bicycle repair shop owned and operated by Raymond North.

#### BOARDING HOUSES

Midway boarding houses in the early mining days were a boon to the men who worked away from their homes. The money these transient workers left in the community was also a welcome asset to townspeople.

One of the more popular boarding establishments was run by Mrs. Agnes O'Neil, affectionately called "Aunt Nanny O'Neil." She suc-cessfully managed the establishment for many years, and then when her health failed, a daughter, Mrs. Agnes Ritchie, took over the management.

Another well regulated and popular boarding house was operated by Mrs. Letty Bronson. Some boarding houses were also kept at the mine sites. There was one at White Pine Canyon and another at the Snake Creek Tunnel. The Old Steamboat Mine also had a boarding house.



One of the most popular spots in early Midway was Mrs. Agnes O'Neil's Hotel and Restaurant. Shown here in front of the building in this 1897 photograph are, left to right, Samuel O'Neil, Ruth Rockwood O'Neil, Helen Ritchie, baby James Ritchie, Aunt Nannie O'Neil, Agnes Ritchie, Samuel Hair, Rachel Hair and Robert Hair.

Written January 20, 1917, by William Lindsay:

'Tis many a year since first we met  
To visit Nannie O'Neil  
To celebrate her natal day  
And wish weh kind heart "weel"  
We met a hearty welcome  
In her cheerful, kindly way  
And many a happy time we've had  
With her the livelong day  
Many of those who used to come  
Have passed away and gone.

Their bodies sleeping in their graves  
'Til the resurrection morn  
Aunt Nannie, too, was called away  
When nearly eighty-seven  
And everyone of us feels sure  
That she is now in Heaven  
Because she kept the laws of God  
As nearly as she could  
And trusted everyone she met  
As all true Christians should.  
Those of her friends who yet remain  
Still hold the memory dear  
And gladly meet to celebrate  
Her Birthday every year.

At the peak of mining there were several Chinese cooks who hired in the area. "One Fan" was a beloved character who cooked at camps in the hills west of Midway. On one occasion young Nate Coleman came running to his father with an especially large piece of pie and exclaimed "Oh, Daddy, see what 'Parasol One' gave me."

Barber shops were operated at various times in Midway by Harry Bircumshaw, William Wheable, Thomas Hair, Mulholland Hair, Walter Van Wagoner and Bert Bonner.

John Mohlman and Mr. Kuhn repaired and made shoes.

Pool halls were operated by Erwin Alder, Walter Van Wagoner, Dow Epperman, Jack Derry and Keith Bronson.

When the railroads came to the area and transportation facilities improved many of the boarding houses closed.

The O'Neil hotel still stands on Midway's Main Street, used today as a private residence.

#### LIVERY STABLE

Only one livery stable flourished in Midway in the days before automobiles. The stable was established about 1909 by Simon Epperson. In earlier years, Mr. Epperson's father, Sidney H. Epperson, had kept a feed stable where travelers could stop for feed for their teams.

The Epperson stable was located north of the old Berkumshaw Building on a spot where William Gibson later operated a blacksmith shop. Mr. Epperson invested much in his livery stable and boasted fine quality horses and the best in harnesses, buggies and cutters.

Many of Midway's young couples courted in Epperson buggies and enjoyed Sunday rides in outfits from the stables. Workers at the mines also made good use of the services. When mining activity dwindled so did the livery stable business, and its end came when automobiles gained in popularity.



In high style for her day is Mrs. Simon Epperson shown here with the popular horse "Skipper" known throughout Wasatch County. She is seated in a buggy from her husband's livery stable. The photograph was taken in 1911.

#### SALOONS AND TAVERNS

Saloons and taverns for the convenience of miners in the Midway area were operated during the mining era, but quickly faded from the picture with the beginning of prohibition. The establishments were mostly of the "movie variety"—hard liquor sold over a bar and disputes settled with six guns. Pool tables and cards were featured, although dance hall girls were prohibited. In recent years there have been a few billiard and pool halls operated.

#### POWER PLANTS

Two major power plants have been operated in the Midway area in addition to the Heber Light and Power Company in which Midway owns one-eighth interest. The first plant was developed in Snake Creek Canyon near the turn of the Century by President Joseph R. Murdock.

Realizing the potential of electric power, Pres. Murdock, along with several others took an option on property owned by Bishop Jacob Probst at the mouth of Snake Creek Canyon. During 1907 and 1908 they surveyed several possible plant sites, and finally chose one that they felt would best utilize water flow out of the canyon. Work was begun under the direction of Bishop Probst, with John H. (Jack) Buehler, John A. Sulser, Samuel (Sam) Ritchie and Gottlieb Buehler employed for the project.

Even though this venture failed, the idea persisted, and Jesse Knight

#### IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE . . .

who organized the Knight Investment Company later took over the project with the idea of supplying electric power to mines and industries he owned in the area. Work on the plant resumed in the Spring of 1909 and provided employment to many Midway men. The plant was ready for production in April, 1910, and a power line was strung to the Snake Creek Tunnel and another to Park City. Later lines ran to American Fork Canyon.

About 1912, Utah Power and Light Co., successor to the Knight Investment Company, took over the plant, and has maintained it since as a booster station. In recent years a line has been run from the plant to the Olmstead Plant at the mouth of Provo Canyon, connecting Snake Creek with all sections of the UP&L system.

Superintendents of Snake Creek's power plant have included John W. Orrock, Harvey Stone and William Brereton. Operators have included Nathaniel Baldwin, William Blood, John A. Sulser, Cyril Orrock, Henry S. Coleman, Vern Probst, LaVon Hair, Earl Willets, Bert Scott, Claude Cornwall, Shield Montgomery and Robert Jarvis.

John A. Sulser, Conrad Gertsch and Vern Probst were maintenance men for the plant.

The other plant near Midway is located at Deer Creek Dam and was placed in operation on February 17, 1958. Part of the multi-million dollar Deer Creek Project which began in 1938, the power has two generators with capacities of 2,500 kilowatts each. Some 27,000,000 kilowatt hours are produced yearly at the plant.

#### CREAMERIES

Settlers of Swiss extraction who came to the Midway area began the creamery and cheese business that flourished for many years as a leading community industry.

Many of the men herded their cows on a few acres of land and would work in timber camps to earn extra cash as they herded. The idea soon developed to start cooperative herds and hire boys or a few men to tend the herds while the timber work went on.

As the herds grew larger the men decided to start cooperative cheese projects and provide for their winter needs. According to the Swiss ways they knew, they dug tunnels into the cool, moist earth of the hillsides to store their cheeses. They cured the cheese by turning it every three or four days and salting it.

In the fall when the cattle had eaten the hillside feed, and the timber work was done, they brought the cows down out of the hills and divided the cheese they had made according to the number of cows belonging to each man. Even today the name "The Dairies" persists for the pasture areas where the cheeses were made.

Gottfried Buhler was one of the first in the area to build a cheese factory in the community. He studied the art of cheese making in Cache

Valley and purchased equipment which he placed in a new factory building near his home. His results were profitable, and he soon built a larger factory across the street where the Robert Mitchell home now stands. With his sons, Joseph and William he gathered milk from neighbors and friends and soon established an extensive cheese market, including a Salt Lake City outlet.

Gottlieb, Ulrich and Christian Abbegglen, together with Fred Barben, also operated a successful cheese factory in White Pine Country in the 1880's.

As an outgrowth of the cooperative dairy herds, a cooperative creamery was also established, with nearly everyone in town contributing something to the project, known as "The People's Creamery." Some who deserve special credit for their cheese making efforts include the Hubers, Sulsers, Schneitters, Abplanalps, Mosers, Abbegglen's, Probsts, Burgeners, Murries, Haslers, Buhlers, Kummers and Haueters.

Other creamery projects that were developing included a butter plant on the Vincent Farm operated by William North. Mark Jeffs built a creamery south of Johnson's Mill, but this venture later burned down.

Frank Bagley and Ewin Danner operated a butcher plant and receiving station near the Charleston Bridge railroad station, shipping much of their surplus by train to Salt Lake City.

The Mutual Creamery established in Heber City bought out The People's Creamery, but those in the cooperative took over the Gottfried Buehler store building and continued operating under the direction of Joseph Buhler and August Kohler. These operators shipped a high quality butter to Ogden under the label "Wild Rose Butter." Later Albert Kohler and Paul Smith operated the creamery until about 1930.

Fluid milk transportation between Midway and Salt Lake City became popular in the 1930's and creamery operations were soon unprofitable and were forced to close. The milk transportation, however, increased business in the valley considerably, and farmers are now realizing some \$1.5 million a year out of this enterprise.

#### FISH HATCHERY

Midway Fish Hatchery, operated by the Utah Department of Fish and Game, began in 1909 as a private trout farm and has grown from that time to its present importance in the sports picture of eastern Utah.

The hatchery ground was homesteaded by James B. Hamilton in 1876 and from then until 1909 was used for farming. The Provo Valley Trout Company purchased the land. They also purchased the water right to the spring that headed in the John Murri property. The water was dammed up at intervals to raise fish. A home was built near the stream and eight fish runs were also constructed by Joseph Nelson and Mr. Erickson.

#### IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE . . .

In 1912 the Wasatch Trout Company purchased the hatchery and operated it until 1916 when John and William L. Van Wagoner bought the site and began regular marketing of fish to miners near Midway and Park City. George Van Wagoner and Bliss Titus cared for the plant.

The Van Wagoners operated the hatchery until 1921 when a private club, the Timpanogos Rod Club, under the direction of E. M. Bagley, president, purchased the property. The hatchery business was closed down and the streams used as fishing waters for club members only.

The State Fish and Game department leased the hatchery land in 1924 and began a long range program to improve the facilities. Cement runs, large ponds and streams and living facilities for those who operate the hatchery have been constructed. In 1939 Alma Durtschi and Angus Thacker patented a revolving screen to separate fish and keep them in their respective streams. In five months of operation the hatchery produced more than 5,000,000 trout annually for stocking rivers and lakes in the area. The fish are transported in special trucks to the Duchesne and Strawberry Rivers, Provo and south fork of the Provo River, Weber River, Wolf Creek, Deer Creek, Wanship Reservoir, Deer Creek Reservoir, Strawberry Lake, Moon Lake and a few of the Grandaddy lakes.

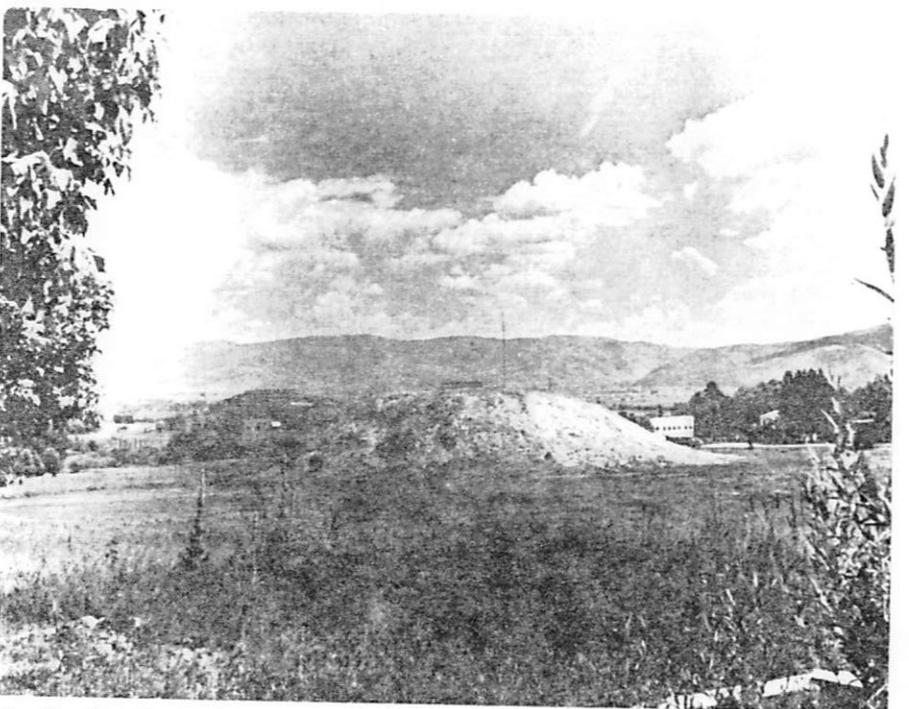
Though no records were kept, it is believed that the following have supervised the hatchery since 1909: Elmer Madsen, George Van Wagoner, Bliss Titus, Obrem Barrett, Henry Scheuller, Ben Butler, George Cox and David E. Wright. The hatchery is state owned and operated and is reported to be one of the largest and best hatcheries in the country.

#### HOT POT RESORTS

Long before white men settled Midway the Ute Indians roamed the valley. They had seen and knew about the strange lime rock mounds and were mystified by the hot water and rising vapor. Mark Smith and Jesse McCarrell in 1859 were the first white men on record to explore the rock craters later known as the Hot Pots.

The larger group of hot pots were located in the mouth of Snake Creek Canyon and extend east from there about two miles. The water in these pots varies in temperature from seventy degrees to 112 degrees, and almost every spring the water is a different temperature. These waters are heavily impregnated with lime and some of the cone shaped pots have sealed themselves shut. Due to their heat and the lime and mineral deposits, these pools have been used and advertised as health pools.

The following is taken from "S. H. Epperson, Pioneer," a journal written by Simon S. Epperson: "The hot pots are mostly cone shaped and of many different sizes, about twenty of them are filled with water which ran over the top. Some are fifteen feet in depth and some appear to be bottomless. The cone of the largest is two hundred feet in diameter and one hundred feet high. They are formed by the constant flow of the lime water. A weight was lowered in the large cone, and no bottom was



The Big Hot Pot at Midway. The "pot" was formed as boiling lime water bubbled over the edge. The bottom of the pool of boiling water has not been found, though many have tried. The water from the pot is now used in pools at the Homestead resort.

found at one hundred and fifty feet." Of the big pot it has been said that water used to run over the top in the spring of the year and down the sides onto the fields.

"In one of the dry craters," continued the Journal, "called Snake Creek Den, between four and five hundred rattlesnakes were killed in a single day. In the spring they appeared on the outside of the crater and formed into groups that would fill a bushel basket. They would tie themselves into knots with their heads sticking out in all directions for protection. The country around these pots is apparently hollow as indicated by sounds caused by rumbling wheels passing over it."

These pots were taken up as homestead grounds in 1875, by Samuel Thompson, Tom Mantle and Hyrum Shelton. On March 10, 1888 Andrew Luke and John Busby purchased the pots for \$600 and renamed the area Luke's Hot Pots.

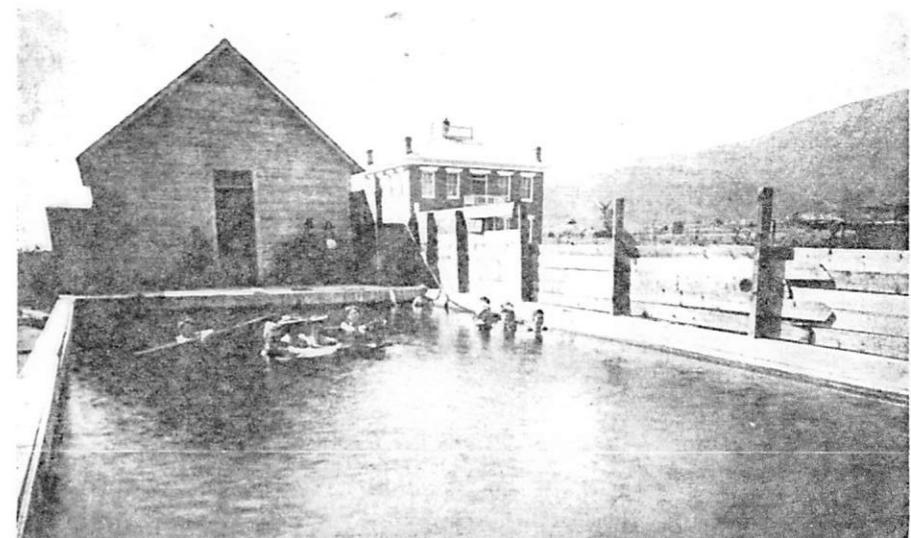
Originally, Luke's Hot Pots was paid for with an Indian saddle horse and a secondhand sewing machine. It later sold for more than \$100,000.

In 1878 Simon Schneitter bought from Samuel Thompson, and with a few chickens and cows started to farm his ground. When Park City

was developed into a mining town and Provo was settled, people heard of the hot pots and would go to Schneitter's in their wagons to see these unusual craters. This started Mr. Schneitter thinking about a resort. In 1886 a two story brick hotel and a swimming pool were started. The hotel, still in use, was then known as "The Virginia House." A hole was drilled at the base of the large hot pot and the water was piped to the pool. "Schneitter's Hot Pots" were known throughout the entire mountain area. The most discriminating people praised the wonderful food prepared under the direction of Mrs. Fannie Schneitter. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Schneitter were noted for their warmth and hospitality. Thousands of people thronged to the resort throughout the year.

The resort was then either leased or rented to Thomas Monks before Jacob Schneitter bought it from his father. Frank Monks writes of his father's operation:

"Father ran the resort for some seven years and as I remember the conversation in those early days, they drew crowds then creating horse races. Some bathing helped to hold interest too. They had the two enclosed swimming pools constructed entirely of lumber. One was smaller than the other and furnished the participating swimmers a rather hot bath, as it was much warmer than the larger one. The two story brick building which seemed to be the outstanding building in those days was equipped to sleep the guests. There were twelve rooms. In connection with this they had a lumber dining room of fair size, and a kitchen. Monk's fried chicken was very well known in Salt Lake City and other nearby towns. The horse and buggy was the means of transportation so their



A very early picture of Schneitter's Hot Pots resort, now The Homestead, showing the swimming pool and bathhouse.

trade extended to a rather small area. They served regular meals and home-made ice cream and cake. When they needed music, it was furnished by a brass band led by Mr. Robert Krebs, who lived nearby."

Following Tom Monk's operation the resort was taken over by W. W. Ritter and Peter Kurellor, known as Dutch Pete, who ran it for three or four years before the Schneitter family took over again.

David N. Murdock owned a resort at the mouth of Pine Canyon about 1894 or '95, called "The Warm Lands." From his journal we read:

"At this resort there was a big plunge bath, a smaller private bath, and eight good dressing rooms, a large dance hall and eating places. Also living quarters, kitchen, dining room and bedrooms. All were built under one big roof. However, the dance hall had windows to keep the dancers cool and comfortable. An orchestra was kept there during the summer months. Dances were held each week and on holidays. The grounds were prepared for ball games, horse races, croquet and other games, with swings and other play places for the youngsters. A 'bus' ran from Provo for special celebrations. Perhaps the biggest crowd came out to see a big balloon ascend, held on the 4th of July."

The balloon was filled by spreading the silk over a fire in an effort to catch the smoke and gases. On the particular day this mentions the silk of the balloon caught fire and of course failed in its attempt to become airborne.

The journal continues: "The place had nice lawns and trees, but a big bowery was built to accommodate the crowds that came to picnic."

There were more bath houses in the area, such as Fred Buhler's which was more centrally located and used by the townspeople as a place for baptisms. These baptisms were carried on for new members and also for those whose records were lost or destroyed. Sometimes this work was carried throughout the entire day. The water in this bath was very hot and was remembered by those using it for a long time. Fred Buhler, Jr., son of the original owner constructed the present bathhouse and built it further down the hill toward the road. The building that stands is larger and the water that feeds this pool had been cooled until now it is quite comfortable. The water was piped from the old bathhouse down to the new.

Still standing is the old Joseph Galli home and one-half mile to the west the tiny bathhouse where Mr. Galli and his wife would teach children of the community to swim. The patient couple were responsible for instructing many Midway youngsters in the sport, and the warm waters of their spring-fed pool became a delightful playground for local boys and girls.

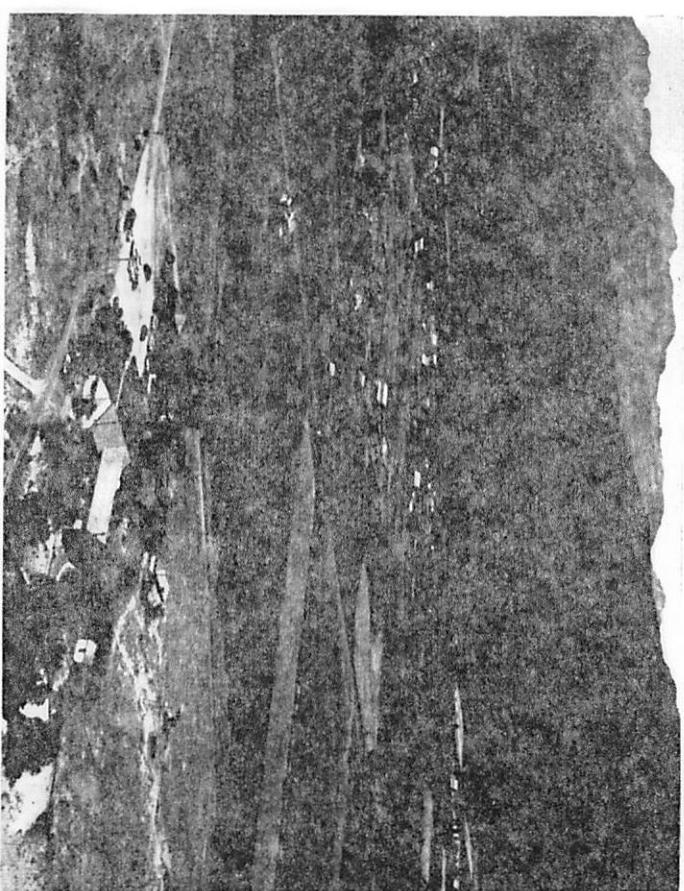
In 1947 Luke's Hot Pots was sold to Joe B. Erwin for \$100,000. Erwin was one of the first to envision Heber Valley as a national resort area, drawing thousands of visitors and greatly benefiting the economy of Wasatch County. He added a new outside swimming pool to the

resort, but eventually his far-sighted plans went awry and five years after he purchased it, Luke's Hot Pots were once again in the hands of John Luke.

In 1953 Luke deeded his resort to Jay, Clyde and Charles DeGraff who made some improvements on the property. Until 1955, when it was deeded back to Mr. Luke, the resort was known as the Diamond D. Also in 1955 Luke transferred the property to his wife Alada, who sold it the following year to Harold Calder and Clifford W. Stubbs. Late in 1956 Calder transferred his interest to Stubbs. A year later Mr. Stubbs sold the resort to Dr. Willard Draper and Eugene Payne who promptly christened it the Mountain Spa.

Under the ownership of Draper and Payne great changes were made. The entire main building was renovated, a brick facade added and the roof completely tiled. Landscaping of the property was begun in earnest, the dining room was remodeled and new equipment added. Roller-skating on the huge dance floor became a popular pastime. A small but picturesque hotel was opened and renovated. Horses were brought in to create added interest at the resort.

In spite of the untimely death of Dr. Draper in 1958 the Mountain Spa continued to gain interest. Still owned and operated by Payne,



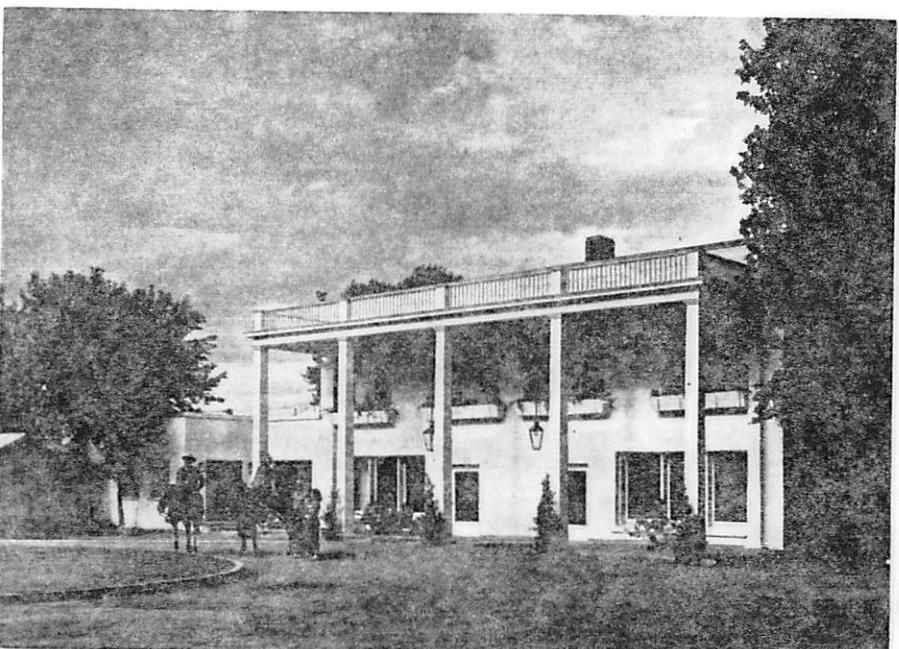
An aerial view of the Midway area with the Mt. Spa resort in the foreground. This is another of the county's popular resort spots.

it has become a popular spot for banquets, swimming and skating parties and future plans call for further expansion.

Schneitters Hot Pots became The Homestead early in 1952 when Ferrin W. Whitaker, his brothers Berlin and Scott and a son-in-law, Del Wallengren, moved to Midway from southern California to take ownership from the Schneitter family. A complete architectural face-lifting gave a new look to the main building. The east wall of the dining room was opened with windows looking out over the valley and kitchen facilities expanded when a new pantry was added. The lobby and fountain were redecorated and a wing furnished to house rest rooms and a check-in room for swimmers.

The old hotel was renovated as was a three-room milk house to the south, providing additional space for overnight guests. Since then the Ranch House and Farm House have been constructed bringing the total number of hotel rooms to 20.

Swimming, horseback riding, fishing in a stocked pond, shuffleboard and other lawn games were made available to visitors. Through continual enlarging, planting and landscaping, this new resort becomes a drawing card for the county. Chicken and steak dinners are still being served and the luster of this vacation spot remains undimmed through 80 years of resort business in Wasatch County. It is one of Utah's best resorts.



The nationally popular Homestead Resort at Midway

#### IRRIGATION

Management of irrigation water was an individual matter in the early days of Midway, but by 1887 the community had developed to the point that centralized control was necessary.

On May 4, 1887 the first organizational meeting of the Midway Irrigation Company was held with 74 persons present. Alvah J. Alexander was appointed chairman and Attewall Wootton, secretary of the meeting.

At this meeting a motion was carried that a committee of five be elected, who in connection with Attorney William Buys, would draft articles of incorporation, and by-laws to be presented at a meeting called by said committee. Committee members included S. H. Epperson, James B. Wilson, James B. Hamilton, C. I. Bronson and Attewall Wootton.

A second mass meeting was held May 16, 1887 to present the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws as prepared. A committee of five was elected to obtain stock subscriptions and select a time for election of officers. As the articles were read it became necessary to explain them in German to many of those attending, so it was determined to make a complete translation into the German language.

The first meeting of the corporation was held March 16, 1888, and S. H. Epperson was elected president. Directors elected included Mr. Epperson, William J. Andrews, John U. Buhler, Elijah Alder, Charles I. Bronson and B. Mark Smith. Treasurer was William Bonner.

On March 27, 1888 the articles of incorporation and by-laws were read in English and German and then unanimously adopted. Attewall Wootton was appointed secretary at a meeting on March 30, 1888, to serve for a salary of \$100 per year.

While Wilford Van Wagoner was president of the Midway Irrigation Company a law-suit was carried on between the adjacent mining companies and the irrigation company. The case involved the rights of ownership to water originating in mining territory. The suit was finally carried to the Supreme Court of the United States. The Irrigation Company won the suit. A decision was handed down that mining companies could not go into irrigation watersheds and claim the water. They could divert but not develop water. The decision protected agricultural water rights.

Salt Lake City and other government units supported the Irrigation Company in the suit with moral and financial help.

The case attracted national attention. The verdict was hailed as a vital water policy. Mr. Van Wagoner deserves much credit for his valiant, intelligent conduct during the case. The litigation lasted from 1914 when the first complaint was filed until 1925 when it was finally settled.

The annual meetings of the corporation have been held since that time in January. Officers are elected and the annual report is read at this time.

Current officers of the company include Alma Huber, president; William Farrell, Rex Kohler, George Remund, Jay Haueter, J. Fred Price and Vernon Wilson, directors and Grace W. Sonderegger, secretary.

#### MEDICINE

Midway has produced four medical doctors, namely, Dr. John Gerber, an early pioneer; Dr. John Edwin Morton, Dr. Reed Abplanalp Alder and Dr. Brice Wilson. Lois Bonner and Emily Zenger are registered nurses, while Carmen Kohler is a laboratory technician. Those engaged in practical nursing include Mary Gerber, Margaret Brach, Margaret Watkins, Cordelia Wilson, Margaret Clayburn Kelly, Winona Epperson, Burnice Bonner and Leah Houtz.

#### CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

### *Knowledge Is Power*

In July of 1838, leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints declared that "Next to worship of God, we esteem the education of our children and of the rising generation." However, such emphasis on education was not new to members of the Church, for the gaining of knowledge and wisdom has always been declared a vital part of life in the revelations of the Lord. They had been taught such doctrines as "The Glory of God is Intelligence"—"Search not for riches, but for wisdom."

It was only logical, then, that the first settlers of Midway would be influenced by the educational ideals of the Church as they lived and worked together to build a new community.

Though they knew how to survive under the rigors of pioneer living, these settlers knew also that the refining influences of life came best through organized schools and in their Church worship. So they built early in their settling days a combination school house and Church building for community use.

The first school in Midway was made of logs, and offered no better facilities than log slabs for seats. Yet, the pupils appreciated what they had and worked diligently on their stone slates to master writing, arithmetic and other school subjects.

Simon Higgenbotham was the first teacher in the school, which was built just west of the present Second Ward chapel site. A stream nearby provided water for the school, and entertainment for the youngsters during recess time. Mr. Higgenbotham's main text was the old Wilson Reader.

When Midway was formed from the upper and lower settlements in 1866, the old log schools were becoming a thing of the past. The people desired more permanent facilities, and so by 1867 a school meeting was called to organize a board of trustees and form a new school. David Van Wagonen, James Lowe and John Huber were elected for a term of two years and instructed to lay plans for building a new school.

The south-east corner lot of the public square was selected as the site of the school, and a tax was voted for the new building, and also for the support of the school. Each family was to furnish one-half cord of rock at the building site. The school ledger for 1867 to 1869 indicates that money was difficult to raise. However, many people paid their taxes with lumber, potatoes, wheat, wood, shingles, by mending windows,

hauling rock or coal, working with a team, assisting the mason or by paying a few dollars toward the teacher's salary.

Even though taxes were to pay the costs of the school, many found difficulty in paying them in cash. So more often than not, the pupils attended by paying tuition. The teachers received their salaries by living with families of the students and by accepting produce, potatoes, wheat, flour, or most any other product that they could use.

The new school was completed in time for the 1868-69 school term, and Attewall Wootton, Sr. was hired as the new principal. He was a well-trained educator, and possessed a keen mind. At the age of six he had read "The Book of Mormon." Because of his aptitude, he was given every opportunity for learning that pioneer life could afford. He quickly mastered all that his teachers knew, and soon became a teacher himself. His first assignment was in the schools of American Fork.

After his marriage to Cynthia J. Jewett, one of his classmates, Mr. Wootton drove a herd of cattle into Wasatch County for his stepfather, and decided to settle in Midway. He became principal of the new school and served until 1887 when he became Superintendent of Schools in Wasatch County, a position which he held for many years. Three generations of Wasatch County residents were trained under his direction.

As was the case in all pioneer communities, the Church and the school shared the same facilities. While this was the most practical use of the building in Midway, it was the source of considerable trouble beginning about 1869.

This was the year that the transcontinental railroad was completed through Utah, and with the new "iron horses" came many non-members of the Church. A great number of these people of other religious beliefs settled in or near Midway because of the mining boom that resulted in Park City and other places in Wasatch County.

Serious difficulties arose when many non-members of the Church refused to have their children attend schools in buildings that were used by the Mormons for their religious worship. As a result, many denominational schools were established. These church schools were also a subtle missionary effort on the part of the various religious groups, since they boasted free tuition, something the poor Mormon pioneers found hard to compete with.

In 1885, the New West Education Commission, a society of the Congregational Church, opened a school in Midway. Many pupils attended because there was no tuition charge. The teachers were well trained, with most of them coming from the east. Some of the first teachers at the New West school were Anna Viola La Rose from Illinois, Elizabeth Jones from Wesleyan College of Massachusetts and Etta Hunt. Other teachers through the years included Miss Anna Slosson, Mrs. J. C. Caldwell, Rena Clark, Frances Buck, Geneva Green, Lizzie Abbott Bond,

Jessie Hunt, Emma Abbott and Sarah E. Jones. These teachers usually boarded with Midway residents.

The New West school was first held in the Van Wagoner Amusement Hall, a large frame building just south of the John Van Wagoner, Sr., home. It had been built by David Van Wagoner as a recreation hall.

In spite of its free tuition, the New West School began to drop in attendance after a few years, and by 1889 it was closed down.



Midway's New West School conducted in Van Wagoner Hall in 1886

A few private schools also existed in Midway during the 1880's. Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander conducted a summer school for about eight or ten pupils who were too young to work on the farms. Mrs. Mary Bronson also had a school in her home. Another private tutor was Sarah Woods, a sister of Mrs. Bronson.

Other private schools were organized to teach specific subjects, and generally were open to anyone interested. Leo Haefeli conducted a writing school in the old German Hall, a building just north of the public square. This was conducted in the evening, and pupils brought their own writing materials and copy books. John Huber taught a music singing class and writing also in the evening.

Attewall Wootton, in addition to his day-school activities, also organized a night school for young married people and other adults to study civics, debating, music, dramatics and to engage in wholesome recreation and open forums.

Other community residents furthered their education by attending evening lectures given by prominent individuals. One such lecturer was a Professor Clegg, an English phrenologist who settled in Heber.

Many of the talented young people in Midway took advantage of state colleges or Church schools in other areas to further their training. Some of the first to leave home to attend college were John, Mary and Emma Huber, the eldest children of John Huber, who was secretary of the school board. They went to Provo where they attended the Brigham Young Academy. Jacob Probst also attended there. Jerry Springer, Reese Clayburn and Nymphus Watkins were some of the first to attend school at the Utah Agricultural College in Logan, where they were naval cadets.

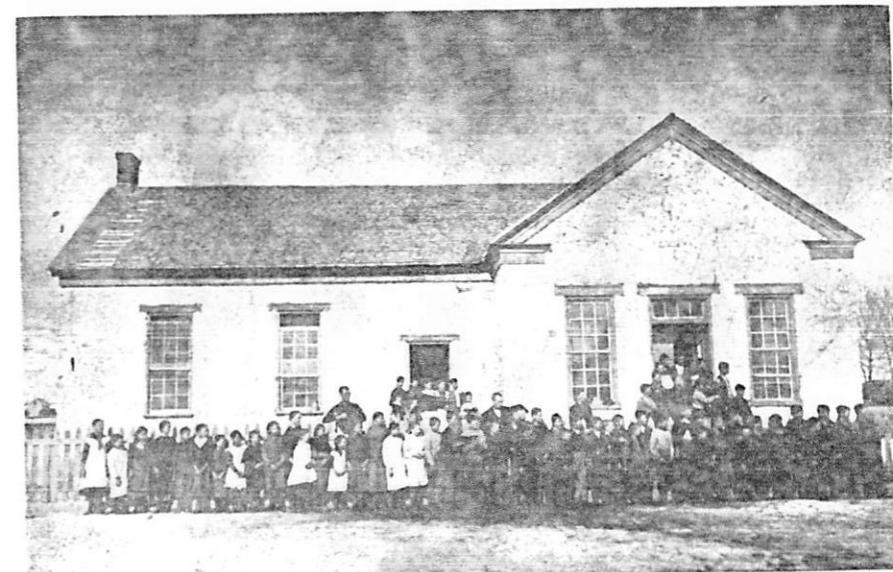


Jerry Springer, Naval cadet at Utah Agricultural College in Logan about 1900.

By 1889 the Wasatch Stake Academy had been established by the Church in the new Stake House in Heber, and many Midway students attended the academy for secondary and religious education.

In 1890, the superintendent of schools issued a report on territorial and local school taxes, which showed that Midway was assessed territorial taxes of \$1,116.36, county taxes of \$352.80 and local taxes of \$708.56, or a total of \$2,177.72 in taxes. This tax was based on \$4.43 territorial taxes per pupil and \$1.40 county tax for each pupil. This would indicate that there were 252 pupils attending the Midway schools in 1890.

This large an enrollment at the school made the school building very inadequate, and so it was decided that enlargement was necessary. The remodeling included addition of a second story to the school and a large room for higher departments. This made three rooms available in the school, which by now had three teachers. Attewall Wootton, Sr., continued as principal, even though he was also superintendent of schools. With the remodeling came also new school equipment, including the latest models of globes, microscopes, physiological charts, geometric forms,



Students of the Midway School in the early 1880's are photographed outside their school building. Teachers at the time were Attewall Wootton Sr. and Attewall Wootton Jr.

geography charts and maps. "Commodious and neat" desks were also furnished.

Leo Haefeli, a former teacher, and newspaper correspondent, wrote at the time, "I defy any school district of the same size or even a good many considerably larger to show better educational facilities than are at present furnished to the people of this ward. That these facilities, gratuitous tuition, and sufficient teachers, staff-graded classes, excellent apparatus, convenient rooms have been appreciated by the people of Midway is evident by the fact that out of a legal population of about 270, the opening days of the mid-winter term found an enrollment of about 240, despite the inclement weather. True at the time of the high water tide in the spell of epidemic, the attendance fell off considerably, temporarily more than 60 per cent in the primary department, but the worst is over and the school grounds are reassuming their wanted air of vivacity about the hour when the bell's brazen tongue summons the little and big scholars to their desks and tasks."

In another newspaper column, Mr. Haefeli indicates that school children are perhaps the same from generation to generation. He wrote: "The other day one boy hurt another quite seriously by holding a freshly sharpened lead pencil under him, just as the school mate was about to resume his seat at the desk. Such tomfoolery cannot be reprimanded too severely nor suppressed too promptly."

School teachers of the 1890's were expected to improve themselves

in training, as is evident from the agenda of one meeting of the Wasatch County Education Assn.

With Supt. Wootton in charge, the agenda was as follows:

- (1) A report of a committee appointed to select a list of books to be approved by the members as fit literature to be added to the library;
- (2) A special lecture by Leo Haefeli on the Absurdity of Trying to Make the English Language Fit the Latin Grammar;
- (3) Exercise by E. D. Clyde in using the teachers as a class to illustrate his method of teaching multiplication of common fractions.
- (4) General discussions by members on declension of the English noun;
- (5) Subject of percentages.

Trustees of the schools were also expected to attend these meetings along with the teachers.

When Utah became a state in 1896 it was necessary by law to elect a new school board and C. I. Bronson, John Huber and John Van Wagoner were voted to three, two and one-year terms respectively. Their salary was \$20 per year.

At the first meeting of the new board, they engaged Attewall Wootton as teacher of the grammar grades and principal for \$75 per month, William T. Wootton, intermediate department, \$50 per month; J. E. Morton, second primary, \$50; and Simon Epperson, Primary Department, \$50. In addition to the three rooms in the school house, the Swiss-German Hall was rented for \$5 per month. Custodian at the main building was Louis Coleman, who was paid \$12.50 per month. Andrew Burgener was paid \$5 per month to care for the Swiss-German Hall.

By 1898 the "growing pains" had seriously affected the Midway educational program. Teachers were handling 50 or more pupils each day in crowded, inadequate classrooms.

The school board subsequently called a meeting to discuss the crowded conditions, but the proposals failed to obtain a majority vote, and so they continued on as they had the past year.

By 1900 the school board obtained a vote to proceed with an entirely new school building. They purchased the property north of the present school for \$168.75 from the Midway Town Corporation in February of 1901.

Architect John Boss was asked to draw plans and make estimates for a new building with four rooms. In a meeting of the taxpayers in March, the clerk reported that the school district had \$512 in material and about \$900 in cash to begin the new building. The taxpayers voted a tax of one-half of one per cent to bring in about \$800 more so that at least two rooms could be ready for occupancy by the winter term. Plans for a six-room school were also discussed, but after some discussion were abandoned.

Work then began in earnest, with the board offering \$1.50 per day

to laborers, and \$2.50 per day for laborers with teams of horses. Fred Haueter obtained the masonry bid and John Van Wagoner was requested to obtain the materials and supervise the work. Andrew Johnson was hired for the carpentry work and given authority to hire what help he needed.

More money was needed, however, to finish the building and furnish it, so the taxpayers voted to bond the district for \$2,000 for five years.

On November 25, 1901, without dismissing school, the classes moved into the new building. The grammar grades moved into the south room, upstairs, with T. B. Miller as principal and teacher. The third primary occupied the north room upstairs with Miss Stella Rasmussen as teacher. Miss Rose Shore taught second primary in the north room downstairs and the first primary occupied the south room downstairs with Miss Mary E. Abegglen as teacher. The intermediate grades continued to meet in the old school building with Charles E. Bronson as teacher.

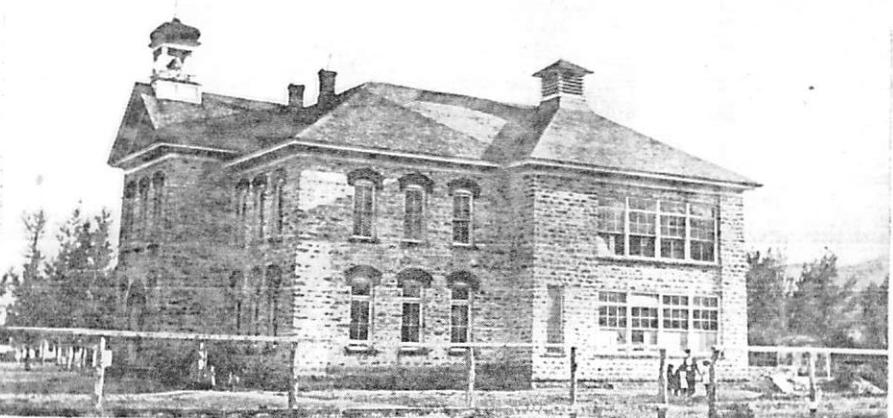


The first graduating class of the Midway School to have formal graduation exercises. Shown in this 1905 group are, seated, left to right, Alfred Sharp, Nellie Provost, Theo B. Miller, teacher, Ora Galli and Charles Bonner. Standing are Iva Bunnell, Eliza Bronson, Nancy Van Wagoner and Ellen Wilson.

The new building cost some \$5,500 to build. Some of the surplus rock and other materials were sold to provide money for furnishings, a fence and badly needed books.

In 1904 the first students were graduated from the new school's eighth grade program. The four graduates were Myrtle Abplanalp, Belle Wilson, David Clayburn and David J. Wilson.

By 1906 the school's principal, Theodore B. Miller was urging that



The Midway School, constructed of native rock in 1912 and still in use today.

Wasatch County form a high school of its own. He showed the people that they were paying enough in sending their children away to complete their education to support one of the finest high schools in the state.

His dream came true in 1908 when the various school boards in the county approved consolidation and formation of a high school district. The people voted overwhelmingly in favor of local high school instruction and a new board was elected to lay plans for the school. C. I. Bronson and George A. Huntington of Midway were elected to serve on the first board, which was headed by Supt. Orson Ryan.

Since that time, students from Midway have continued their education at Wasatch High School which is located in Heber City.

"Growing pains" were felt in Midway schools again by 1910, and so it was decided to issue bonds totaling \$7,000 for building, furnishing and equipping an addition to the school building.

In constructing the addition, the board allowed \$4.50 per cord of rock, \$1.25 per load of sand, \$2.00 per day for common labor, \$2.50 for powder and drilling, and \$3.50 per day for team work. H. G. Blumenthal was awarded the heating plant bid for \$3,375, while George A. Wootton and Anton Olson received the bids on the carpentry work, materials, completing and furnishing everything but the masonry work and heating plant. Their bid was \$6,985.

It was on March 22, 1912 that the people accepted a proposition by Midway Town to exchange the old school house and lot for one-half of the public square joining the new building. The new sturdy school house, built of native rock, is still serving the needs of the people of Midway today.

Formation of the Wasatch County School Board in 1915 eliminated the need for individual community boards and so the Midway board was abandoned. Some of those who served on the board included David

Van Wagoner, James Lowe, Jeremiah Robey, Alvah J. Alexander, C. I. Bronson, John Huber, John Van Wagoner, Simon Epperson, William L. Van Wagoner, Frederick Hasler, John Watkins, Mark Smith, Attewall Wootton, Jacob Burgener, Conrad Abegglen, George Wardle, George Dabling and Jesse McCarrell.

Since the county school district has been organized, Midway has been represented by the following board members: C. I. Bronson, J. A. Wootton, William L. Van Wagoner, Reed Kohler, Charles Buehler, Fay Van Wagoner and Irvin Bowden.

Principals of the Midway School have included Attewall Wootton Sr., Theodore B. Miller, Thomas Higgs, E. M. Isaacson, James Sorenson, L. S. McQuarrie, Clark Crook, John Pendleton, Karl Probst, Clarence Probst and Mark Rasband.

Some who will be remembered as teachers in Midway schools, in addition to those already named, include Joseph Forbes who lived in the fort string and was one of the early teachers, George Wootton, Attewall Wootton Jr., David Wootton, Dermont Huffaker, Mrs. Oscar (Ida Murdock) Kirkham, Mrs. Lavina Christensen Fugal, who was American Mother of 1955, Charles E. Bronson, Ira Jacobs, Sarah Wood, Moroni Gerber, Lizzie Lindsay, a Mr. Nugent and a Mr. Phelps.

As Wasatch County's second century begins there is every reason to believe that Midway's future educational efforts will be characterized by the same vision, courage and untiring efforts that have been exhibited since pioneer times.

*In the Sweat of Thy Face...*

Industriousness has been a vital part of the community spirit in Midway since the area was first settled. Through the years the people have worked together to build their community and to develop the trades and industries needed to sustain life.

The early settlers pooled their individual skills to build homes and make roads, to erect a fort for protection and to raise crops to keep them through long, hard winters. Later, as life became established, there were many community service industries that developed, such as grist mills, blacksmith shops, sawmills, creameries and others.

As treasures in the earth were discovered in the Midway area, a booming mining industry sprang up and flourished for some time. The advent of electricity gave rise to a new industry of electrical power generation, which in turn saw the growth of dam building on Provo River and other streams.

Commerce in Midway has included business houses such as grocery stores, meat markets, livery stables, department stores and hotels and boarding houses. Saloons and pool halls have also existed.

Following are accounts of the various industries and trades.

IRRIGATION

Management of irrigation water was an individual matter in the early days of Midway, but by 1887 the community had developed to the point that centralized control was necessary.

On May 4, 1887 the first organizational meeting of the Midway Irrigation Company was held with 74 persons present. Alvah J. Alexander was appointed chairman and Attewall Wootton, secretary of the meeting.

At this meeting a motion was carried that a committee of five be elected, who in connection with Attorney William Buys, would draft articles of incorporation, and by-laws to be presented at a meeting called by said committee. Committee members included S. H. Epperson, James B. Wilson, James B. Hamilton, C. I. Bronson and Attewall Wootton.

A second mass meeting was held May 16, 1887 to present the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws as prepared. A committee of five was elected to obtain stock subscriptions and select a time for election of officers. As the articles were read it became necessary to explain them in German to many of those attending, so it was determined to make a complete translation into the German language.

The first meeting of the corporation was held March 16, 1888, and S. H. Epperson was elected president. Directors elected included Mr. Epperson, William J. Andrews, John U. Buhler, Elijah Alder, Charles I. Bronson and B. Mark Smith. Treasurer was William Bonner.

On March 27, 1888 the articles of incorporation and by-laws were read in English and German and then unanimously adopted. Attewall Wootton was appointed secretary at a meeting on March 30, 1888, to serve for a salary of \$100 per year.

While Wilford Van Wagoner was president of the Midway Irrigation Company a law-suit was carried on between the adjacent mining companies and the irrigation company. The case involved the rights of ownership to water originating in mining territory. The suit was finally carried to the Supreme Court of the United States. The Irrigation Company won the suit. A decision was handed down that mining companies could not go into irrigation watersheds and claim the water. They could divert but not develop water. The decision protected agricultural water rights.

Salt Lake City and other government units supported the Irrigation Company in the suit with moral and financial help.

The case attracted national attention. The verdict was hailed as a vital water policy. Mr. Van Wagoner deserves much credit for his valiant, intelligent conduct during the case. The litigation lasted from 1914 when the first complaint was filed until 1925 when it was finally settled.

The annual meetings of the corporation have been held since that time in January. Officers are elected and the annual report is read at this time.

Current officers of the company include Alma Huber, president; William Farrell, Rex Kohler, George Remund, Jay Haueter, J. Fred Price and Vernon Wilson, directors and Grace W. Sonderegger, secretary.

## MEDICINE

Midway has produced four medical doctors, namely, Dr. John Gerber, an early pioneer; Dr. John Edwin Morton, Dr. Reed Abplanalp Alder and Dr. Brice Wilson. Lois Bonner and Emily Zenger are registered nurses, while Carmen Kohler is a laboratory technician. Those engaged in practical nursing include Mary Gerber, Margaret Brich, Margaret Watkins, Cordelia Wilson, Margaret Clayburn Kelly, Winona Epperson, Burnice Bonner and Leah Houtz.